(g) various steps are taken/being taken in the plants of SAIL to prevent occurrence of theft cases, such as restriction in the number of exit points, tightning of perimeter security, sufficient lighting at all important locations, intensified patrolling and regular night checks, stringent procedures followed to have check on the despatch of materials at every stage etc.

Molasses Decontrol Order

1229. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that since the promulgation of Molasses Decontrol Order in 1993 there have been severe imbalance in many States, affecting the working of alcohol-based industries like cattle/poultry feed and potable alcohol;

(b) whether many States did not cooperate with the decontrol policy in letter and spirit for fear of losing excise revenue; and

(c) what are the recommendations of the Working Group of State Excise Ministers and whether the Centre is keen to implement the same and what implications these recommendations will have on the prohibition policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) The Molasses Control Order, 1961 and the Ethyl Alcohol (Price Control), Order, 1971 were rescinded on the 10th June, 1993, with a view to remove control on prices and distribution of Molasses and the prices of alcohol. However, some of the States continued controlling the prices and distribution of both the products under State Laws, on the plea of safeguarding their excise revenues. After decontrol, the prices of molasses and alcohol increased adversely affecting the manufacturing operations of the industry dependent on molasses like alcohol-based chemical industry and cattle and poultry feed manufacturing units.

(c) The main recommendations of the Working Group of State Excise Ministers on Molasses and Alcohol are for partial distribution control on molasses and alcohol and for policy consensus among different states to tackle the problems arising after decontrol The report of the Working Group was recently placed before the Excise Minister Conference. The views of the States on the recommendations of the Working Group are being examined alongwith their legal implications.

Embezzlement of Fertilizers

1230. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the stockist of Paradeep Phosphates Limited at Muzzafarpur in Bihar was found involved in the embezzlement of fertilizers in November last year;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the stockist had been appointed by the company without any proper verification of his antecedent;

(c) whether the CBI has also registered two cases related to the embezzlement of fertilizers worth about Rs. 25 million; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The stockist was appointed on the basis of the recommendations of a Committee constituted for the purpose which had inspected the party's godown before making the recommendation.

(c) and (d) The CBI has registered a case on 24th November, 1994 against M/s. Vijay Kumar for defalcation of about 2850 MT of DAP at Muzzaffarpur worth about 2.59 crores.

Programme of Genetic Improvement of Milching Animals in Bihar

1231. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the entire population of cows and buffalows is being covered under the programme of genetic

improvement in the State of Bihar to increase milk production in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the progress made under the programme in the State so far; and

(c) what other measures Government propose to take to increase milk production in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) No Sir.

(c) Animal Husbandry is a State Subject. The State Government are responsible for the development of this Sector for increasing the production of the livestock products including milk. Government of India has however been assisting the States including the State of Bihar under various Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development Schemes for supplementing their efforts. A list of these schemes is enclosed.

List of Centrally Sponsored Schemes

A. *Animal Husbandary*

1. Extension of Frozen Semen Technology & Progeny Testing Programme.
2. Assistance to States for Feed & Fodder Development.
3. National Project on Rinderpest Eradication.
4. Assistance to States for Control of Animal Diseases.
5. Professional Efficiency Development.
6. Assistance to States for improvement of Abattoirs/Establishment of carcass utilisation centres and Primary Flaying Units.
7. Integrated Sample Survey for Estimation of Major Livestock Production in the State/UTs and Strengthening of animal husbandary statistics cell at Headquarters.
8. National Bull Production Programme.
9. National Ram/Buck Production Programme and Programme for Rabbit Development.
10. Development of Pack Animals.
11. Assistance to States for Intcgrated Piggery Development.

B. *Dairy Development*

1. Swiss Aided Dairy Development Project in North Kerala.

List of Central Sector Schemes

A. *Animal Husbandary*

1. Animal Husbandry Extension Programme.

B. *Dairy Development*

1. Integrated Dairy Development Project in Non-operation Flood, hilly and backward areas.

Foreign Equity in Mining

1232. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently foreign equity upto 50% and even beyond has been permitted even in a sensitive area like mining; and

(b) whether Government would consider limiting foreign equity in mining of Gold, Diamonds and other rare metals, materials and earths to 40%?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. With the announcement of National Mineral Policy, 1993, foreign investment in equity would normally be limited to 50% and this limitation would not apply to captive mines of any mineral processing industry. Enhanced equity holding can also be considered on case to case basis.

(b) No, Sir.

Replacement of Timber by an Environment Friendly Construction Material

1233. DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:
SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:
MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI:

Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state: